AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant requests that the Examiner replace Figure 1 as originally filed with the enclosed replacement sheet of drawing, which includes Figure 1. In Figure 1, the sub-boxes of Portal Services, Communication Services, and Web, Application and Integration Services to conform with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 and to clarify the invention.

Attachments: One replacement sheet

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 16 and 19 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 16, and 19.

Drawings

Although the Examiner has accepted the drawings, Applicant hereby submits a replacement drawing sheet for Figure 1, and asks that the replacement drawing sheet be accepted by the Examiner. The drawing has been modified to conform to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 and to clarify the invention. No new subject matter has been added by way of the replacement of the drawing sheet.

Likewise, the specification has been amended to be consistent with the changes to the drawings. No new subject matter has been added by way of the amendment to the specification.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 9 has been amended in this reply to correct the antecedent basis. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in paragraph [0053] of the specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,708,170 ("Byrne"). Claims 1, 16, and 19 have been amended to clarify the present invention. Specifically, the claims have been amended to clarify that an authentication sequence is forwarded from the multiplexer to a first remote server, wherein the first remote server holds the user entry.

Support for these amendments may be found, for example, in paragraph [0059] of the Instant Specification. To the extent that the rejection still applies, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

For anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present.

Byrne teaches a method whereby all servers maintain a local cache list of user entries. Thus, a user may authenticate to any server in a distributed directory using a distinguished name. When the user sends a request to authenticate with a distinguished name to a server, the server queries the local cached directory entries and the local access control data for the distinguished name. (*See, e.g.,* Byrne col. 6, ll. 13-31, Figure 4, and Abstract). If the distinguished name is found, then the user is authenticated to that server. If the distinguished name is not found, then the server queries the distributed directory to find the user access control data. Specifically, the server queries and receives the distributed directory for the groups to which the user belongs. (*See, e.g.,* Byrne col. 5 ll. 35-37). The authentication is not performed at this time in any of the distributed directory servers. The user access control data is then sent back to the server. This data is stored in the server's cache. Upon receiving the user access control data, the server authenticates the user locally (*See, e.g.,* Byrne col. 5 ll. 30-45).

In contrast, the amended claims of the present invention recite a multiplexer forwarding the authentication sequence to a remote server that holds the user entry. The multiplexer neither queries nor receives user access control data. In fact, only when the authentication is completed at the remote server, does the multiplexer authenticate the user. (*See, e.g.,* paragraphs [0059] – [0061] of the Instant Specification). Also, because the authentication is performed at the remote server, there is no reason to cache the user access control data locally at the multiplexer or forward the user access control data as taught in Byrne.
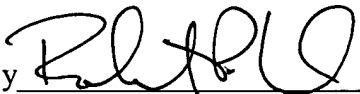
In view of the above, it is clear that Byrne fails to teach or suggest the present invention as recited in claims 1, 16, or 19. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-15, 17, 18, 20, 21 are allowable for at least the same reasons. A withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 13220/004001).

Dated: April 13, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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Attachments: One replacement sheet